



Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

New Information Is In Blue Text

Event Name	20-0003 COVID-19 2020
Date	October 25, 2020
Time	0900
Operational Period	October 24 to October 25, 2020
Report Number	220

Region	
Regions Affected	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6
DDCs Active	DDCs 1, 2, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9A, 9B, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16A, 16B, 16C, 16D, 17, 18A, 18B, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24 & Capitol

Current Situation: The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is currently reporting a total of 858,071 cases of COVID-19 in the State of Texas which includes an estimated 89,393 active cases, 753,611 individuals have recovered from the virus and 17,456 confirmed COVID-19 related fatalities. Across Texas, a total of 7,710,195 COVID-19 molecular tests have been completed.

Visit the Testing Sites Map online for testing locations near you.

<https://txdps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8bf7c6a436a64bfe9a5ce25be580e4ff>

View the Governor's Executive Orders issued:

<https://lrl.texas.gov/legLeaders/governors/displayDocs.cfm?govdoctypeID=5&governorID=45>

Websites to help Texans during the COVID-19 Pandemic:

The Governor's Report to Open Texas.

<https://open.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Report.pdf>

Texas Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information Page. <https://www.texas.gov/covid19/>

The Governor's Strike Force to Open Texas and a list of guidelines, openings, and relevant dates. <https://open.texas.gov/>

Texas Health and Human Services Family Violence Program.

<https://hhs.texas.gov/services/safety/family-violence-program>

Texas Health and Human Services Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) and

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
<https://hhs.texas.gov/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19-information-texans/pandemic-ebt-p-ebt-due-covid-19>

Texas Health and Human Services Mental Health and Substance Use Resources.
<https://hhs.texas.gov/services/mental-health-substance-use/mental-health-substance-use-resources>

One Star Foundation, Texas COVID Relief Fund. <http://onestarfoundation.org/txcovidfund/>

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Help for Texans.
<https://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/texans.htm>

Essential Services. <https://tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices/>

Help essential workers in Texas locate child care and support child care centers.
<https://frontlinechildcare.texas.gov/>

Special WIC Food Updates. <https://texaswic.org/about-wic/special-wic-food-updates>

Comfort Food Care Packages (CFCP). <https://www.txrestaurant.org/news/comfort-food-care-packages-feed-youth-and-families-need-and-stay-open>

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. <https://www.cms.gov/>

Texas Health and Human Services. <https://hhs.texas.gov/>

Texans in need can apply for benefits, including SNAP and Medicaid.
<https://www.YourTexasBenefits.com>

To apply for unemployment benefits or to request payment
<https://www.twc.texas.gov/jobseekers/unemployment-benefits-services>

On October 24, Governor Abbott held a call with Dr. Robert Kadlec, the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), to discuss hospital capacity needs in the City of El Paso.

The Governor and Dr. Kadlec discussed the need to expand hospital capacity in El Paso given the recent surge in positive cases and hospitalizations in the area. Governor Abbott asked Dr. Kadlec to authorize the use of the William Beaumont Army Medical Center on Fort Bliss to house non-COVID patients to free up beds in El Paso-area hospitals for COVID patients. The Governor also detailed the additional steps the State of Texas is taking to contain the spread and expand hospital capacity in the region. The Governor concluded the call by thanking Dr. Kadlec for his leadership and guidance.

On October 22, Governor Abbott announced that the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) are surging additional medical personnel and equipment to the El Paso region to assist with the community's COVID-19 response. DSHS is deploying over 460 medical personnel to the region

this week, and the agencies are sending a Texas Emergency Medical Task Force ambulance bus, medical incident support team, five ambulances, and mobile medical unit to assist first responders. DSHS is also deploying 48 patient monitors, 25 medical beds, and 30 oxygen concentrators to support area hospitals.

On October 22, Governor Abbott announced that the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has secured 2.8 million doses of flu vaccine for the Texas Vaccines for Children Program and the new Adult Influenza Vaccine Initiative. These programs will enhance flu vaccination coverage as part of the state's COVID-19 response by decreasing the number of illnesses, hospitalizations, and fatalities due to influenza and help ensure that health care providers can focus resources on treating COVID-19 patients. Children who are uninsured, underinsured, or qualify for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program are eligible to receive voluntary immunizations against the flu and other diseases from more than 3,000 Texas Vaccines for Children providers across the state. Participating medical practices, community clinics and health departments have ordered 1.8 million doses of free flu vaccine this flu season. Parents can search for providers in their area by using the Find a Provider link on the DSHS website.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has provided one million flu vaccines to DSHS which will distribute them through the Adult Influenza Vaccine Initiative to adults who are at higher risk of COVID-19 infection or severe disease. The new program will make the vaccine available for people in certain groups:

- Health care employees, first responders, and other critical front-line workers.
- Staff and patients in long-term care facilities.
- People with underlying health conditions.
- People in racial and ethnic groups disproportionately affected by COVID-19.
- Uninsured and underinsured adults.

Prospective participants in the Adult Influenza Vaccine Initiative, including pharmacies, first responder organizations, and long-term care facilities can learn about enrollment on the DSHS website. More information on the flu and vaccination locations can be found at TexasFlu.org

On October 16, Governor Abbott announced that the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) have surged medical personnel, medical supplies, and personal protective equipment (PPE) to the Panhandle and South Plains areas to support hospitals in their COVID-19 response. These resources will be concentrated in hospitals in Amarillo, Lubbock and the surrounding areas. DSHS has deployed 171 medical personnel to these communities, and an additional 100 personnel will arrive by Sunday October 18. DSHS has also deployed 100 IV pumps, 56 ventilators, and 25 oxygen concentrators to the region.

On October 15, the Texas Division of Emergency Management updated the criteria for a county exemption from the Texas Executive Order GA-29 face-covering requirement. TDEM has promulgated the following criteria for a county exemption from the face-covering requirement of GA-29:

1. The county must have 30 or fewer new COVID-19 cases during the previous 14 day period.
2. The county judge of a county with 30 or fewer new COVID-19 cases during the previous 14 day period must submit an exemption form affirmatively opting out.

3. Counties approved for exemption from the GA-29 face-covering requirement will be listed below.

4. If a county exceeds 30 new COVID-19 cases during a 14 day period, the county judge will be notified via email by TDEM, the county name will be removed from this website, and the county will be required to comply with all aspects of GA-29. After a 14 day waiting period, if the county has fewer than 30 new COVID-19 cases during the previous 14 day period, the county judge will be eligible to reapply for exemption.

Visit <https://tdem.texas.gov/ga29/> for more details.

On October 14, Governor Abbott, the Texas Education Agency (TEA), and TDEM announced the creation of a COVID-19 Rapid Testing Pilot Program for Texas school systems. This program will help schools conduct rapid tests of district employees and students — with the written permission of their parents — to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 on campuses.

Participating school systems include; Bob Hope School (Port Arthur), Fabens ISD, Grace Community School (Tyler), Granger ISD, Lampasas ISD, Longview ISD, Harlingen Consolidated ISD, and Ysleta ISD

On October 12, Governor Abbott announced that DSHS and TDEM have surged medical personnel and PPE to El Paso to help combat COVID-19 and support hospitals in the region. This deployment of 75 medical personnel, including nurses and respiratory therapists, is in addition to the 169 personnel previously deployed to El Paso.

On October 9, Governor Abbott announced the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) will receive more than \$20 million in additional federal funding for disaster crisis counseling services for Texans impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This grant is in addition to the \$5.8 million in FEMA crisis counseling funds health officials announced in May and will extend counseling services to 28 local mental health and behavioral health authorities in Texas. For additional resources, visit the Mental Health & Substance Use Resources web page. Texas residents can dial 2-1-1 to learn about programs and services.

On October 8, Governor Abbott amended the paragraph of Executive Order GA-31 that defines “areas with high hospitalizations” to read as follows, effective at 12:01 AM on October 14, 2020: “Areas with high hospitalizations” means any Trauma Service Area that has had seven consecutive days in which the number of COVID-19 hospitalized patients as a percentage of total hospital capacity exceeds 15 percent, until such time as the Trauma Service Area has seven consecutive days in which the number of COVID-19 hospitalized patients as a percentage of total hospital capacity is 15 percent or less. A current list of areas with high hospitalizations will be maintained at www.dshs.texas.gov/ga3031.

On October 7, Governor Abbott issued an Executive Order to open bars and similar establishments at up to 50% capacity in conjunction with county officials. In hospital regions with low COVID-19 hospitalizations, County Judges will be able to opt their county into opening bars beginning October 14, provided they assist in enforcing health protocols. The Governor's Executive Order also increases the occupancy levels for all business establishments other than bars to 75%.

Additionally, the Governor released a web video with his Executive Order, encouraging Texans to continue following best practices to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in their communities. [The video can be viewed on YouTube.](#) [View the Governor's Executive Order.](#)

On October 7, Governor Abbott renewed the State Disaster Declaration for COVID-19.

On October 2, Governor Abbott and HHSC announced \$3.5 million in federal funding for nursing facilities to purchase plexiglass barriers and tents to allow for safe visitation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Nursing facilities may apply for this funding through HHSC beginning October 5, 2020. For more details on how to apply for funding, [visit the Texas HHS website.](#)

On September 30, Governor Abbott announced that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is partnering with the State of Texas and local officials to offer temporary COVID-19 surge testing in McLennan County. HHS has allocated 40,000 COVID-19 tests for this effort. For hours of operation and registration details as well as future testing dates throughout October, visit www.covidwaco.com. Registration will be available on-site.

On September 30, Governor Abbott announced that HHSC will provide approximately \$196 million in emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) food benefits for the month of October as the state continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On September 25, Governor Abbott announced that Texas' major health insurers have agreed to continue reimbursing network health care providers for telehealth appointments at the same rate which they pay for office visits through the end of 2020

On September 25, Governor Abbott announced the allocation of over \$171 million in funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act which will primarily be used for targeted rental assistance for Texans at risk of becoming homeless due to eviction. The funding will also allow the Supreme Court of Texas, the Office of Court Administration, and the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) to work in partnership with local governments and non-profits and the newly created Texas Eviction Diversion Program to help renters stay in their homes, catch up on missed rental payments, and avoid an eviction on their records.

On September 17, Governor Abbot issued Executive Orders expanding occupancy levels at 75% for restaurants, retail stores, office buildings, manufacturing facilities, gyms and exercise facilities and classes, museums, and libraries, and re-authorizing elective surgeries for a majority of the state of Texas beginning September 21. A current list of areas with high hospitalizations will be maintained at www.dshs.texas.gov/ga3031.

Three of the 22 TSAs (S-Victoria, T-Laredo, and V-Lower Rio Grande Valley) must remain at 50% occupancy and continue postponing elective surgeries until the hospitalization metric requirements are met. These three TSAs contain the following counties: Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Lavaca, Victoria, Jim Hogg, Webb, Zapata, Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy. New visitation guidance for eligible nursing homes, assisted living facilities, intermediate care facilities, home and community-based service providers, and inpatient hospice effective Thursday, September 24 while maintaining health and safety standards to mitigate COVID-19.

On September 7, Governor Abbott issued a proclamation extending his Disaster Declaration for all Texas counties in response to COVID-19.

On August 31, Governor Abbott announced the Texas HHSC will provide approximately \$188 million in emergency SNAP food benefits for the month of September as Texas continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On August 21, Governor Abbott issued a statement after the federal government approved nearly \$1.4 billion in initial funds made available through President Trump's Lost Wage Assistance Executive Order. This funding will provide an additional \$300 per week in benefits for qualifying Texans receiving unemployment benefits.

On August 20, Governor Abbott announced that TEA, in partnership with Local Education Agencies, has procured more than 1 million personal devices and internet WiFi hotspots as part of the State's Operation Connectivity initiative

On August 20, Governor Abbott announced that the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has applied for additional unemployment benefit funding made available through President Trump's Lost Wage Assistance Executive Order.

On August 13, Governor Abbott traveled to El Paso to meet with state representatives and local leaders to discuss the community's response to COVID-19.

On August 12, Governor Abbott announced that the U.S. HHS has extended operations for four temporary COVID-19 surge testing sites in Harris County.

On August 11, Governor Abbott traveled to Beaumont and Victoria to hold a briefing with local officials and state representatives on the ongoing COVID-19 response in Jefferson County.

On August 8, Governor Abbott extended his Disaster Declaration for all Texas counties in response to COVID-19. Originally issued on March 13th, the Disaster Declaration provides the state a variety of resources to effectively serve Texans.

On August 7, Governor Abbott announced that the U.S. HHS has established four temporary COVID-19 surge testing sites. Two testing sites in Houston and Pasadena began operations August 6th, and two testing sites in Houston and Kingwood began operations on Monday, August 10th. For hours of operation and registration details, visit www.doineedacovid19test.com.

On August 6, Governor Abbott announced that the Houston Astros and TDEM have teamed up to open a free COVID-19 testing site at Minute Maid Park in Houston. The testing site will be able to process 2,000 tests per day and began operations on Saturday, August 8. Testing will run from 8:00 AM through 4:00 PM seven days per week. To book an appointment and learn more, visit Texas.curativeinc.com.

On August 5, Governor Abbott and HHSC announced that the federal government has further extended the deadline to apply for the CARES Act Provider Relief Fund. The deadline has now been extended to Aug. 28, 2020 for Medicaid and CHIP providers as the state responds to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On August 4, Governor Abbott visited the McAllen Convention Center for the opening of the temporary health care facility which will help increase the Rio Grande Valley's hospital capacity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On August 4, Governor Abbott visited the TDEM Warehouse in San Antonio where he provided an update on the state's distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to Texas school districts for the 2020-2021 academic year.

On August 4, Governor Abbott announced that President Trump has extended federal funding for the Texas National Guard's mission to help combat COVID-19 in communities across the state.

On July 31, Governor Abbott held virtual meetings with Mayors, County Judges, Emergency Managers, Hospital Executives, State Legislators, and other local officials from the cities of Laredo and Eagle Pass to discuss ongoing efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19.

On July 30, Governor Abbott announced that HHSC will provide approximately \$185 million in emergency SNAP food benefits for the month of August as the state continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On July 30, Governor Abbott announced that HHSC is extending flexibilities to Medicaid and CHIP recipients and providers through October 23, 2020, as the state continues to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

On July 28, Governor Abbott announced that HHSC is extending the application deadline for the federal Pandemic-Electronic Benefit Transfer program (P-EBT) to August 21 to ensure eligible families have more time to apply for this one-time food benefit.

On July 24, Governor Abbott announced HHSC has received federal authority to extend certifications by six months for SNAP recipients whose benefits are up for renewal in July and August.

On July 24, Governor Abbott and the Texas Military Department (TMD) announced Joint Task Force Texas, a newly formed partnership between the Texas National Guard and Active Duty and Reservists to strengthen COVID-19 response efforts in Texas.

Texas Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Thomas Suelzer, appointed as the dual-status commander, serves as the commander of both Texas National Guard and federal service members.

On July 23, The Office Of The Governor and Guadalupe Zamora, MD, of Zamora Medical Center released a new English-Spanish language public service announcement (PSA) urging communities to work together to protect vulnerable Texans from COVID-19.

On July 22, Governor Abbott announced that the State of Texas will allocate an additional \$118 million in federal funding to support higher education in Texas, including \$93 million to help students continue or restart their progress toward earning a post-secondary credential or degree.

On July 21, Governor Abbott held virtual meetings with mayors, county judges, emergency managers, hospital executives, state legislators, and other local officials from Cameron and Hidalgo Counties to discuss the unified efforts to combat COVID-19 in these communities.

On July 19, Governor Abbott announced that the U.S. Department of Defense has sent five U.S. Navy teams to four locations in South and Southwest Texas to help combat the spread of COVID-19.

On July 17, Governor Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Patrick, House Speaker Bonnen, Senate Finance Committee Chair Nelson, Vice Chair Hinojosa, and House Appropriations Committee Chair Capriglione and Vice Chair Longoria announced that the State of Texas will allocate \$200 million in CARES Act funding to the TEA for the purchase of eLearning devices and home internet solutions to enable remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic for Texas students that lack connectivity.

On July 15, Governor Abbott announced that his Public Safety Office (PSO) will provide \$41 million in federal funds to assist cities and counties throughout the COVID-19 response.

On July 13, Governor Abbott announced that the U.S. Department of Defense has activated additional U.S. Army Urban Augmentation Medical Task Forces (UAMTF) to assist the state's efforts to combat COVID-19.

On July 10, Governor Abbott extended the COVID-19 Disaster Proclamation to further mitigate the spread of the virus. He also announced that Omnicare, a CVS Health company, is partnering with the State of Texas to provide COVID-19 point of care testing for assisted living facilities and nursing homes throughout the state

On July 9, Governor Abbott issued a Proclamation suspending elective surgeries in hospitals in all counties located within 11 Trauma Service Areas (TSAs) in Texas.

On July 8, Governor Abbott announced that the State of Texas will invest \$57 million in federal funds to maintain the state's need-based financial aid programs and keep more students enrolled at their colleges and universities.

On July 4, Governor Abbott announced that DSHS is distributing 448 cases of the antiviral drug Remdesivir to 157 hospitals across Texas.

On July 2, Governor Abbott issued an Executive Order requiring all Texans to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth in public spaces in counties with 20 or more positive COVID-19 cases, with few exceptions. The Governor also issued a proclamation giving mayors and county judges the ability to impose restrictions on some outdoor gatherings of over 10 people, and making it mandatory that, with certain exceptions, people cannot be in groups larger than ten and must maintain six feet of social distancing from others.

On July 2, Governor Abbott and HHSC announced that \$2.67 billion in federal funding has been approved to support Texas hospitals that provide care for people receiving Medicaid.

On June 30, Governor Abbott and HHSC announced \$9 million in federal funding for nursing

facilities to implement infection control.

On June 30, Governor Abbott issued a proclamation suspending elective surgeries at hospitals in Cameron, Hidalgo, Nueces, and Webb counties to help ensure hospital bed availability for COVID-19 patients in these communities.

On June 26, Governor Abbott issued an executive order limiting certain businesses and services as part of the state's effort to contain the spread of COVID-19.

On June 26, Governor Abbott announced that the federal government has granted his request to extend operations of Community Based Testing Sites across Texas.

On June 25, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission enacted new emergency rules related to health and safety standards for child day care operations.

On June 25, Governor Abbott issued an Executive Order to ensure hospital bed availability for COVID-19 patients as Texas faces an increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

On June 24, Governor Abbott announced that TDEM, in partnership with the Texas Military Department (TMD), will begin distributing 3-ply surgical masks to every Texan who undergoes COVID-19 testing at state-run mobile test collection sites.

On June 23, As COVID-19 cases rise in Texas, Governor Abbott has expanded the ability of mayors and county judges to impose restrictions on outdoor gatherings of over 100 people.

On June 22, Governor Abbot provided an update on Texas' continued response to COVID-19.

On June 16, Governor Abbott and Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs of the University of Texas (UT) System John Zerwas, MD, provided an update on Texas' hospital capacity

On June 11, Governor Abbott extended the Disaster Declaration for all counties in the State of Texas amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

On June 9, Governor Abbott announced that DSHS is distributing additional cases of the antiviral drug Remdesivir to 85 hospitals across 34 counties in Texas.

On June 8, Governor Abbott announced that TDEM is coordinating with local officials, public health officials, and emergency management offices in cities across the state to identify and rapidly expand COVID-19 testing in underserved and minority communities that have been disproportionately impacted by the virus.

On June 3, Governor Abbott announced the third phase of the State of Texas' plan to safely open the economy while containing the spread of COVID-19. Under Phase III, effective immediately, all businesses in Texas will be able to operate at up to 50% capacity, with very limited exceptions.

On May 27, Governor Abbott and HHSC announced \$3.6 million in funding for nursing facilities to purchase tablets, webcams, and headphones to connect residents with their loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On May 21, Governor Greg Abbott directed HHSC to expand COVID-19 testing to all patients, residents, and staff at the 23 state-operated inpatient psychiatric hospitals and living centers throughout Texas.

On May 15, Governor Abbott and TDEM announced that local fire departments in Texas are partnering with local public health authorities to provide testing in nursing homes throughout the state.

On May 14, Governor Abbott announced HHSC has received more than \$3 million in federal funding to provide shelter and services to survivors of family and domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. Governor Abbott also announced that the Texas National Guard has activated Facilities Disinfection Teams to support Texans in nursing homes and to help limit the spread of COVID-19.

On May 13, Governor Abbott waived license renewal late fees that accrued between March 13 and June 15, 2020 for occupational licenses issued by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR).

On May 12, Governor Abbott announced that HHSC has received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide more than \$1 billion in food benefits through the federal Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program to families with children who have temporarily lost access to free or discounted school meals due to COVID-19-related school closures.

On May 11, Governor Abbott directed HHSC, TDEM, and DSHS to test 100% of residents and staff in Texas nursing homes.

On May 8, Governor Abbott announced that TDEM has applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Category B (Emergency Protective Measures) assistance funding to provide financial support to Texas' network of food banks.

On May 6, Governor Abbott announced that HHSC has received \$5.8 million in federal funding to provide crisis counseling services to Texans who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

On April 30, Governor Abbott announced that TWC has issued new guidance to unemployment claimants concerning their eligibility for unemployment benefits should they choose not to return to work at this time due to COVID-19.

On April 27, Governor Abbott announced the first phase of the State of Texas' ongoing plan to safely and strategically open Texas while minimizing the spread of COVID-19.

On April 24, Governor Abbott announced that TDEM and DSHS have launched an online COVID-19 test collection map to help Texans locate test collection sites within their community.

On April 24, Governor Abbott and the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) announced that Texas will provide Home Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)

to Texans experiencing housing challenges due to COVID-19.

On April 23, Governor Abbott announced that Texas A&M Service will provide a series of free online trainings to help local officials understand, acquire, and administer federal assistance available to the state of Texas and municipalities through the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and recently passed CARES Act.

On April 23, Governor Abbott announced that HHSC will receive nearly \$54 million in federal funds to support older Texans and people with disabilities during the COVID-19 response.

On April 22, Governor Abbott temporarily waived certain restrictions to allow Texas higher education institutions to transfer all unexpended student financial aid funds from the Texas College Work-Study (TCWS) program to other financial aid programs that do not have a work-study requirement to ensure students will continue receiving financial assistance.

On April 20, Governor Abbott announced that the Texas National Guard will be mobilizing more than 1,200 personnel as part of COVID-19 mobile testing teams (MTT). With reports of elevated scams and fraudulent activity preying on the public and consumers disguised as COVID-19 relief and assistance, local, state and federal response includes guidance, investigation, and prosecution. See links below:

- Federal Trade Commission: <https://www.ftc.gov/coronavirus>
- Federal Bureau of Investigation: <https://www.fbi.gov/coronavirus>
- Texas Attorney General: <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov>
- US Attorney's Office: <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndtx/report-covid-19-fraud>
- Federal Communications Commission: <https://www.fcc.gov/covid-scams>

On April 9, Governor Abbott announced that HHSC has adopted an emergency rule to temporarily allow more nurse aides to serve residents in long-term care facilities during the COVID-19 response.

On April 8, Governor Abbott suspended certain statutes concerning appearance before a notary public to execute a self-proved will, a durable power of attorney, a medical power of attorney, a directive to physician, or an oath of an executor, administrator, or guardian.

On April 8, Governor Abbott announced that his Public Safety Office (PSO) will provide a one-time emergency waiver of the federally required cash or in-kind match contribution required for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and Stop Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant funds.

On April 8, Governor Abbott announced that Texas HHSC will provide more than \$168 million in emergency SNAP food benefits to help Texans during the COVID-19 response.

On April 6, HHSC, Texas WIC, the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children, is expanding the number of food items eligible for purchase through the program.

On April 5, Governor Abbott temporarily waived certain regulations to expand the health care workforce to assist with Texas' COVID-19 response.

On April 3, Governor Abbott held a press conference to provide an update on Texas hospital capacity. Texas has increased by over 140% since March 18.

On April 1, Governor Abbott and TDHCA took initial action to provide tenant-based rental assistance for Texans experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19.

On March 31, Governor Abbott announced the Comfort Food Care Package (CFCP) program to provide meals for at-risk youth and families in communities across Texas as the state responds to COVID-19.

On March 28, Governor Abbott waived certain regulations allowing for an expedited licensing reactivation process for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) in Texas. The Governor also waived certain licensing renewal regulations for Texas pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy technician trainees.

On March 27, Governor Abbott announced the deployment of three National Guard Joint Task Force Brigades. The 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the 56th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and the 176th Engineer Brigade.

On March 27, Governor Abbott waived certain Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) regulations to preserve and extend child care capacity for front line workers.

On March 25, Governor Abbott released a statement thanking President Trump for issuing a Major Disaster Declaration (DR-4485) for the State of Texas.

On March 23, Governor Abbott sent a letter to President Trump requesting a presidential declaration of a major disaster in Texas based on the continued impact of COVID-19.

Chief Nim Kidd has been designated the Governor's Authorized Representative and State Coordinating Officer, tasked with continuing his coordination with FEMA on all matters related to COVID-19.

On March 20, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) warned consumers about unauthorized fraudulent coronavirus tests. Governor Abbott also announced that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has included the entire state of Texas in its Economic Injury Disaster Declaration and granted access to its Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program.

On March 19, the Commissioner of the Department of State Health Services, Dr. John Hellerstedt, issued a Public Health Disaster Declaration in Texas. Governor Abbott issued a proclamation suspending provisions of the Texas Election Code to allow political subdivisions to postpone their 2020 local elections. Governor Abbott and TEA announced a collaboration with Local Education Agencies (LEA) on the Texas Students Meal Finder Map which will allow Texas parents to locate LEA facilities serving meals in their communities.

On March 17, Governor Abbott waived certain regulations and directed that the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) issue an emergency rule, relating to telemedicine care for patients with state-regulated insurance plans.

On March 14, Governor Abbott, directed the Texas Medical Board (TMB) and the Texas Board of Nursing (TBN) to fast-track the temporary licensing of out-of-state physicians, physician

assistants, certain retired physicians, nurses, and other license types to assist in Texas' response to COVID-19.

On March 13, the President of the United States Donald Trump declared that the COVID-19 global pandemic is a national emergency. On the same day, Governor Abbott issued a proclamation certifying that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat in the state and declared a state of disaster for all 254 counties in Texas.

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Commissioner Sid Miller announced TDA has been granted flexibility from the federal school meal program to allow Texas schools to continue to provide meals to students even if temporarily closed.

Texas COVID-19 Cases, October 24, 2020

County of Residence	Cases	County of Residence	Cases	County of Residence	Cases	County of Residence	Cases
Anderson	2,941	Donley	85	Kaufman	3,499	Red River	196
Andrews	584	Duval	486	Kendall	381	Reeves	258
Angelina	2,277	Eastland	251	Kenedy	11	Refugio	308
Aransas	346	Ector	3,689	Kent	10	Roberts	14
Archer	137	Edwards	71	Kerr	693	Robertson	417
Armstrong	24	El Paso	38,554	Kimble	24	Rockwall	1,896
Atascosa	1,270	Ellis	4,875	King	1	Runnels	296
Austin	513	Erath	1,017	Kinney	73	Rusk	992
Bailey	280	Falls	663	Kleberg	1,015	Sabine	92
Bandera	185	Fannin	778	Knox	113	San Augustine	214
Bastrop	1,991	Fayette	519	La Salle	366	San Jacinto	236
Baylor	43	Fisher	102	Lamar	1,729	San Patricio	1,572
Bee	1,846	Floyd	126	Lamb	507	San Saba	117
Bell	6,327	Foard	21	Lampasas	304	Schleicher	55
Bexar	52,335	Fort Bend	17,392	Lavaca	1,126	Scurry	1,074
Blanco	159	Franklin	215	Lee	239	Shackelford	39
Borden	2	Freestone	458	Leon	336	Shelby	542
Bosque	405	Frio	1,007	Liberty	2,283	Sherman	77
Bowie	1,765	Gaines	503	Limestone	671	Smith	4,317
Brazoria	12,191	Galveston	12,297	Lipscomb	68	Somervell	156
Brazos	7,430	Garza	124	Live Oak	381	Starr	3,534
Brewster	246	Gillespie	359	Llano	172	Stephens	160
Briscoe	22	Glasscock	13	Lubbock	16,911	Sterling	13
Brooks	347	Goliad	157	Lynn	163	Stonewall	19
Brown	661	Gonzales	1,111	Madison	753	Sutton	108
Burleson	457	Gray	450	Marion	170	Swisher	146
Burnet	888	Grayson	2,508	Martin	89	Tarrant	56,578
Caldwell	1,689	Gregg	2,525	Mason	80	Taylor	1,879
Calhoun	928	Grimes	1,174	Matagorda	1,094	Terrell	4

County of Residence	Cases	County of Residence	Cases	County of Residence	Cases	County of Residence	Cases
Callahan	123	Guadalupe	3,835	Maverick	4,182	Terry	493
Cameron	23,976	Hale	2,508	McCulloch	202	Throckmorton	17
Camp	391	Hall	45	McLennan	9,772	Titus	1,583
Carson	53	Hamilton	194	McMullen	24	Tom Green	2,577
Cass	496	Hansford	193	Medina	1,274	Travis	31,411
Castro	301	Hardeman	63	Menard	62	Trinity	206
Chambers	1,545	Hardin	1,429	Midland	4,771	Tyler	260
Cherokee	1,626	Harris	157,392	Milam	545	Upshur	483
Childress	120	Harrison	1,068	Mills	74	Upton	27
Clay	107	Hartley	170	Mitchell	179	Uvalde	828
Cochran	99	Haskell	80	Montague	270	Val Verde	2,489
Coke	109	Hays	6,287	Montgomery	12,920	Van Zandt	668
Coleman	88	Hemphill	133	Moore	1,317	Victoria	4,248
Collin	17,611	Henderson	1,217	Morris	217	Walker	3,932
Collingsworth	21	Hidalgo	34,970	Motley	17	Waller	959
Colorado	499	Hill	798	Nacogdoches	1,781	Ward	158
Comal	2,841	Hockley	632	Navarro	1,417	Washington	694
Comanche	354	Hood	1,167	Newton	188	Webb	15,011
Concho	142	Hopkins	609	Nolan	405	Wharton	1,420
Cooke	539	Houston	417	Nueces	16,171	Wheeler	76
Coryell	1,962	Howard	1,192	Ochiltree	302	Wichita	3,486
Cottle	35	Hudspeth	94	Oldham	27	Wilbarger	336
Crane	74	Hunt	1,944	Orange	2,160	Willacy	1,222
Crockett	166	Hutchinson	326	Palo Pinto	700	Williamson	9,335
Crosby	115	Irion	13	Panola	466	Wilson	991
Culberson	97	Jack	151	Parker	2,400	Winkler	140
Dallam	362	Jackson	646	Parmer	570	Wise	908
Dallas	92,197	Jasper	512	Pecos	474	Wood	626
Dawson	787	Jeff Davis	21	Polk	912	Yoakum	289
DeWitt	1,078	Jefferson	8,245	Potter	7,682	Young	535
Deaf Smith	1,026	Jim Hogg	168	Presidio	128	Zapata	345
Delta	33	Jim Wells	1,566	Rains	86	Zavala	460
Denton	14,157	Johnson	3,588	Randall	4,883	Total	858,071
Dickens	51	Jones	585	Reagan	92		
Dimmit	287	Karnes	949	Real	123		

DSHS will update the state case count each day by 4:00 PM Central Time.

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:

1. Protect life and property.
2. Protect vulnerable populations.
3. Support rapid & effective response.

4. Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve decision-making.
5. Accurately track incident costs associated with assigned resources for cost recovery.
6. Expand and maximize bed capacity.
7. Develop alternative care sites to support local governments and the health care systems.
8. Acquire supplies/equipment to support health care and testing.
9. Ensure visibility on progression of the disease.
10. Support local governments

RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

Texas Division of Emergency Management Texas A&M University System (TDEM): The State of Texas State Operations Center remains at Readiness Level II Escalated Response Conditions, with Daily Operations staff processing disaster declarations, letters to the Governor, Disaster Summary Outlines, State of Texas Assistance Requests (STARs), as well as severe weather messages, and preparing Snapshots and the state SITREP. The State Management Team (SMT) continues conducting operations in the State Operations Center, working together with activated members of the State's Emergency Management Council. TDEM District Coordinators are working closely with their local emergency management partners and various members of the public health community to assist with unmet needs and resources.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife): [Pony Express Team members made the following deliveries/retrievals yesterday:](#)

- [17 bundles or pallets prepared at Armories](#)
- [4 PPE deliveries to schools, county/governmental facilities, Fire Dept.](#)
- [3 PPE deliveries to Skilled Nursing Facilities & Medical offices](#)
- [1 Pick-up or delivery of test specimen kits](#)
- [2 Deliveries of tests to MTT or QRF sites](#)
- [3 Deliveries of Binax Test Kits](#)

Two DAR agent received specimens at armories/airports from one QRF collection sites after closing and transferred them to airports or reefer trucks to be taken to Austin for distribution to laboratories. [Fourteen DAR agents are coordinating with test sites to ensure deliveries of kits to the Courier. One agent delivered samples to DSHS laboratory.](#)

[DAR Agents are assisting TEEX with delivery of testing kits, and delivery and activation of phones for school testing.](#)

Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX): TEEX continues to coordinate operations from the SOC and the 8 IST Resource Staging Areas (RSA) throughout Texas in 10 distribution locations. TEEX currently has [64](#) personnel deployed to support ongoing response activities throughout the state.

Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS): TFS has mobilized 37 personnel and four (4) fire engines in support of COVID-19 response. Resources are providing operational, planning, and logistical support to TDEM and the Randall County Fire Department.

Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC): The TAHC supports assessing Texas animals for COVID-19 testing and tracks testing results: to date, 20 animals in Texas have tested

positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus. TAHC has conducted 74 Animal Assessments.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ): TCEQ has created a link specific for COVID-19 on our public webpage.

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/covid-19/tceq-preparedness-responsibilities-covid-19>

Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR):

- TDLR continues to update their website's COVID-19 page (<https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/covid19.htm>) with the latest developments affecting their licensees and the public.
- [TDLR has extended their agency's current work from home initiative through January 5, 2021.](#)

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS): DPS Texas Highway Patrol (THP) is currently providing:

- THP continues to have a liaison at the State Operations Center currently assisting with "Pony Express" Rural COVID-19 Testing Sites by coordinating ground transportation of the collected samples for THP/CID to transport to the designated labs for processing.
- Since April 24, DPS Aviation has performed 357 flights, transported 1,561 coolers of samples and has 1,126 hours of flight time.

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS): DSHS Call Center Activities:

[The Call Center has received 27,176 calls and 24,765 emails to date.](#) The Call Center will operate Monday-Friday from 8:00AM -6:00PM and Saturday-Sunday from 8:00AM – 5:00PM.

Texas Education Agency (TEA): To view TEA support and guidance for school districts regarding COVID-19 please visit <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/safe-and-healthy-schools/coronavirus-covid-19-support-and-guidance>.

Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC): HHSC temporarily suspended non-essential visits to State Hospitals and State Supported Living Centers.

Texas Military Department (TMD): TMD currently has 1,338 personnel in support of the COVID-19 Response. TMD General Support Units are staged in Tyler, Dallas, Lubbock, El Paso, San Antonio, Austin, Houston, Corpus Christi, Weslaco, and Midland to implement the TDEM distribution plan to the RACs. TMD is assisting TDEM with warehouse distribution of PPE. TMD has supported Community Based Test site operations, testing a total of [499,385](#) people and are currently testing in Houston, [Laredo](#), San Juan, Pharr, El Paso, McAllen, [Alice](#), [Corpus Christi](#), [Freer](#), [Roma](#), San Antonio, Marfa, Harlingen, Dell City, Waco, Fort Worth, and Tyler. TMD has disinfected a total of 11,055,925 square feet.

TMD personnel are supporting the Rio Grande Valley Food Bank, the South Texas Food Bank, the North Texas Food Bank, the Coastal Bend Food Bank, the San Antonio Food Bank, Houston Area Food Bank, and the Tarrant Area Food Bank. TMD has distributed 141,700,000 pounds of food to date.

TMD personnel are supporting surge testing operations in McLennan County by providing traffic/crowd control and registration assistance.

Texas Public Utilities Commission (PUC): PUC has created a link specific for COVID-19 on our public webpage. <http://www.puc.texas.gov/covid-19/>

Texas Wing Civil Air Patrol (CAP): [On October 23, CAP conducted one ground sortie transporting 1,500 boxes of food and eight pallets of milk.](#)

Texas Workforce Commission (TWC):

Unemployment Insurance:

- Call centers are open 7 days a week 7:00 AM-7:00 PM.
- TWC Website, Information for COVID-19 [Frequently Asked Questions](#).
- Expanded the number of people doing pin and password resets.

STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
AgriLife, TAMUS	Specialists/Admin	22		Activated	College Station
AgriLife, TAMUS	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	SOC/Austin
AgriLife, TAMUS	DAR Extension Agents	15	15	Assigned	Statewide
AgriLife, TAMUS	Incident Support Teams	16	16	Assigned	Regional Advisory Council Areas
TEEX, TAMUS	SOC Liaisons	4		Assigned	Remote SOC/Austin
TEEX, TAMUS	Incident Support Team (IST)	13		Assigned	Austin
TEEX, TAMUS	Incident Support Team (IST)	9		Assigned	Corpus Christi / Weslaco
TEEX, TAMUS	Incident Support Team (IST)	4		Assigned	Dallas
TEEX, TAMUS	Incident Support Team (IST)	10		Assigned	El Paso / Midland
TEEX, TAMUS	Incident Support Team (IST)	15		Assigned	San Antonio
TEEX, TAMUS	Incident Support Team (IST)	4		Assigned	Tyler
TEEX, TAMUS	Incident Support Team (IST)	4		Assigned	Lubbock
TEEX, TAMUS	Incident Support Team (IST)	1		Assigned	Houston
TFS, A&M	ESB/ESF 4 Representative	1		Assigned	SOC/Austin
TFS, A&M	EOC Support	3		Assigned	College Station
TFS, A&M	Logistical Support	9		Assigned	San Antonio Warehouse
TFS, A&M	TIFMAS Logistical Support	4	4	Assigned	Grand Prairie

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
TFS, A&M	TIFMAS Logistical Support	8	8	Assigned	Fort Worth
TFS, A&M	TIFMAS Operational Support	12	4	Assigned	Randall County
DPS-THP	Liaison	1		Assigned	SOC/Austin
DPS-THP	Personnel	4	4	Assigned	Dallas County
DPS-THP	HSOC GIS Specialist	1	1	Assigned	SOC/Austin
DPS THP	Troopers			Assigned	Statewide
DPS CID	Special Agents			Assigned	Statewide
DPS COMMS	Command Trailer		1	Assigned	Austin
DPS Aviation	Aviation			Assigned	Statewide
DSHS	Task Force Leader	1		Assigned	Hidalgo County
DSHS	AMB Staging Team	5		Assigned	Hidalgo County
DSHS	MIST, MTTs & RA-QRF	17		Assigned	Statewide
DSHS	EMTF State Coordinating Office (SCO)	4		Assigned	SOC
DSHS	Angel Med Surge	1,386		Assigned	Statewide
DSHS	Maxim Med Surge	631		Assigned	Statewide
DSHS	BCFS Med Surge	2,916		Assigned	Statewide
DSHS	Case Investigators	18		Assigned	PHR 1
DSHS	Infection Control Practitioner	10		Assigned	Statewide
DSHS	Epidemiologists	145		Assigned	Statewide
DSHS	Data Entry Spec	75		Assigned	Statewide
DSHS	Fatality Management Trailer (FMT) - HPP		16	Assigned	HPPs
DSHS	FMT - DSHS		3	Assigned	Hidalgo, Webb, Bexar Counties
DSHS	FMT - FEMA		36	Assigned	Bexar, Cameron, Dallas, El Paso, Harris, Hidalgo, Lubbock, Montgomery, Nueces, Randall, Smith, Starr, Travis Counties
HHSC	SOC Liaison	4		Assigned	SOC/Austin
PUC	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	Remote
TAHC	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	Virtual
TAHC	AROCC Operations	6		Assigned	Virtual
TDA	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	Remote

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
TDLR	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	Remote
TEA	SOC Liaison	2		Assigned	Remote
TMD	SOC Military Desk	2		Assigned	SOC/Austin
TMD	SOC Food Unit	2		Assigned	SOC/Austin
TMD	SOC Logs Vettors	9		Assigned	SOC/Austin
TMD	ABS MRP	2		Assigned	Austin
TMD	Hospital Support	6		Assigned	Corpus Christi
TMD	DHR Ambulance	6		Assigned	Edinburg
TMD	Lone Star HQ	44		Assigned	Austin
TMD	RHQ East	32		Assigned	Austin
TMD	RHQ North	22		Assigned	Austin
TMD	RHQ West	33		Assigned	Austin
TMD	MTS #1	14		Assigned	Houston
TMD	MTS #2	16		Assigned	Waco
TMD	MTS #3	16		Assigned	Waco
TMD	MTS #4	15		Assigned	Laredo
TMD	MTS #5	16		Assigned	San Juan
TMD	MTS #6	16		Assigned	Pharr
TMD	MTS #7	16		Assigned	El Paso
TMD	MTS #8	16		Assigned	Waco
TMD	MTS #9	16		Assigned	Fort Worth
TMD	MTS #10	16		Assigned	McAllen
TMD	MTS #11	15		Assigned	Alice
TMD	MTS #12	16		Assigned	Corpus Christi
TMD	MTS #13	15		Assigned	El Paso
TMD	MTS #14	16		Assigned	Freer
TMD	MTS #15	15		Assigned	Tyler
TMD	MTS #16	15		Assigned	Roma
TMD	MTS #17	16		Assigned	Houston
TMD	MTS #18	16		Assigned	San Antonio
TMD	MTS #19	16		Assigned	Waco
TMD	MTS #20	14		Assigned	Marfa
TMD	MTS #21	16		Assigned	Houston
TMD	MTS #22	15		Assigned	Harlingen
TMD	MTS #23	14		Assigned	Dell City
TMD	MTS #24	15		Assigned	Houston
TMD	TF RED HQ (TF LONESTAR)	14		Assigned	Austin

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
TMD	FDT #1	16		Assigned	Dallas
TMD	FDT #2	14		Assigned	Austin
TMD	FDT #3	16		Assigned	Midland
TMD	FDT #4	15		Assigned	Houston
TMD	FDT #5	13		Assigned	Edinburg
TMD	FDT #6	14		Assigned	Baytown
TMD	FDT #7	16		Assigned	San Antonio
TMD	FDT #8	16		Assigned	Dallas
TMD	FDT #9	16		Assigned	Weslaco
TMD	TF RSA HQ	16		Assigned	San Antonio
TMD	RSA-GSU Tyler	37		Assigned	Tyler
TMD	RSA-GSU Redbird	33		Assigned	Redbird
TMD	RSA-GSU Lubbock	35		Assigned	Lubbock
TMD	RSA-GSU El Paso	34		Assigned	El Paso
TMD	RSA-GSU TDEM SSA	24		Assigned	San Antonio
TMD	RSA-GSU ABIA	41		Assigned	Austin-ABIA
TMD	RSA-GSU San Antonio	49		Assigned	San Antonio
TMD	RSA-GSU Westheimer	28		Assigned	Westheimer
TMD	RSA-GSU Corpus	29		Assigned	Corpus Christi
TMD	RSA-GSU Weslaco	30		Assigned	Weslaco
TMD	RSA-GSU Midland	12		Assigned	Midland
TMD	TF Longhorn HQ	45		Assigned	Austin
TMD	TF GS HQ	10		Assigned	Houston
TMD	HQ North	6		Assigned	Tarrant
TMD	North Texas Food Bank	45		Assigned	Dallas
TMD	Tarrant Area Food Bank	30		Assigned	Tarrant
TMD	San Antonio Food Bank	28		Assigned	San Antonio
TMD	HQ South	6		Assigned	Houston
TMD	Coastal Bend Food Bank	15		Assigned	Corpus Christi
TMD	Houston Food Bank	60		Assigned	Houston
TMD	South Texas Food Bank	15		Assigned	Laredo
TMD	Rio Grande Valley Food Bank	15		Assigned	RGV
TPWD	SOC Liaison	2	2	Assigned	Austin

FINAL COMMENTS: The State Operations Center (SOC) remains at Level II (Escalated Response Conditions). The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) continues to monitor the situation and will provide additional situation reports as needed.

The four levels of SOC activation are:

- Level I (Emergency Conditions)
- Level II (Escalated Response Conditions)
- Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions)
- Level IV (Normal Conditions)

This Situation Report can be found on the TDEM webpage at: <https://tdem.texas.gov/situation-reports/>

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